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Pokemon Club meeting next Thursday

The Pokemon Club is again meeting weekly in the Children's Activities Room at the Holyoke Public Library.

Whether a fan of collecting cards, watching the show, playing the games or loving the app, Pokemon fans of all ages and abilities are welcome to gather every Thursday, 4-6 p.m., in the library at 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke. The first meeting is Feb. 13.

There is no cost to participate, but registration is recommended at 413-420-8105.



Library to look at science of ice cream

Children aged 8-12 are invited to learn about the science of ice cream, and how to make their own, at a Holyoke Public Library event this month. Children's Library Assistant Charlie Pope will lead this STEM Week event 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22.

Participation is free but supplies are limited, so advance registration is required at cpope@holyo-kelibrary.org or in person at the Children's Room desk. For more information, call 413-420-8105. The library is at 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke.

Tickets available now for chili dinner

Our Lady of the Cross Church in Holyoke will host a chili dinner starting at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.

Several different kinds of chili will be served, from mild to spicy. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

The dinner will take place in the Parish Hall on Holy Cross Avenue. To order tickets, call the parish office at 413-532-5661.

Ex-teachers speak out **AGAINST** receivership



Elizabeth Butler, a Holyoke native and former Holyoke High School teacher, speaks at the City Council meeting on Tuesday. Photo by Michael Ballway

Lax standards, staff turnover to be discussed March 9

By Michael Ballway
mballway@turley.com

It's time for Holyoke to take back control of its schools, a group of ex-teachers told the City Council this week.

"For too long, you have remained quiet and complacent. We all have," said Elizabeth Butler, who was born and raised in Holyoke and taught at Holyoke High School until 1½ years ago.

"Five years later, we are

in the same place we were," said Holyoke resident and former teacher Doug Arnold. "The test scores have not kept up. The school system has lost 600 veteran administrators, teachers, and staff."

The solution, they said, is an end to receivership — the 2015 decision by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to take control of Holyoke's public schools away from the locally elected School Committee and appoint a

receiver-superintendent who reports directly to DESE.

Councilors agreed to continue the discussion at a meeting of their Development and Governmental Relations Committee at 6 p.m. Monday, March 9, in City Hall.

Arnold and Butler were among the 16 former HHS teachers who signed a letter published last month in The Holyoke Sun ("Two Sides of the Story in Holyoke School

See **SPEAK OUT**, page 7



Jose Bou, from the Holyoke schools' central office, records some of the suggestions for the school receiver search during a public forum on Feb. 3.

Photo by Michael Ballway

More local input urged in search for receiver

By Michael Ballway
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Holyoke residents have plenty of thoughts about what they want in a new School Department receiver, as state officials and their consultant discovered during a community forum on Monday.

Chief among them is this one: It should be their decision.

"All of this is meaningless unless Holyoke, the School Committee, is part of the decision," said Natalia Munoz.

Deb Lantaigue from the state elementary and secondary education commissioner's office, and Steve Sell from Great Schools, which is helping coordinate the job search, spoke with about 20 Holyoke residents, including a handful each of residents, parents, students and employees of the Holyoke schools, on Feb. 3 at Enlace de Familias. The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will host a second community forum 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, in the cafeteria at Holyoke High School, North Campus, 500 Beech St., Holyoke. An online community survey is also available, in both English and Spanish, through Feb. 17 at www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/about-us/receiver-search.

Through the forums and the survey, DESE and Great Schools are looking for feedback on the characteristics and qualities that Holyoke would like to see in the next receiver, a state-appointed official who serves as the city's school

See **SEARCH**, page 13

Teachers kindle love of books in young pupils

By Peter Spotts
pspotts@turley.com

Fostering a love of reading at young ages is important and Lawrence School is bringing kids together and cultivating that love in and out of school.

The debut of the Family Literacy event on Wednesday, Feb. 5, drew dozens of children and their parents to the cafeteria, where first and second grade teachers read books in English and Spanish. After each book, people could switch to another table to enjoy several books before the conclusion of the event.

"I like that there's a lot of pictures and the pictures make the book even funner," said Dustin Sibley, one of the students.

"I think it's fun for the kids," added parent Sarah Clark. "My kids enjoy reading. They pretty much begged to come do this."

While enjoying having the books read to them, the energetic children enjoyed munching on cookies and hot chocolate with marshmallows.



Teacher Molly Cooksy helps Emily Guzman pick out a book. Photo by Peter Spotts



Richard Rodriguez helps his son, Richard Jr., choose a book to take home.

During and after the reading, the teachers engaged the kids with questions and discussions about what they had read. Family and Community Engagement Coordinator Yamaris Rivera explained the school is evaluating its events to see in what ways kids are

learning and taking those lessons beyond the classroom and applying them.

"What is the meaning? What is the link to learning? Are they taking anything they learn to put it into practice?"

See **BOOKS**, page 16

HCC offering cooking class Friday nights

Holyoke Community College is taking its “Cooking Confidently” series up a notch for the spring 2020 semester.

The program of three-hour cooking classes for home chefs will expand to three times a month beginning Friday, Feb. 7, when Chef Tracy Carter will present “Uptown Italian Comfort,” from 6 to 9 p.m. at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, demonstrating how to prepare pork chops scarpellio with creamy polenta and a lemon semolina cake.

Additional sessions, all at 6-9 p.m. on Fridays, will include:

Feb. 21: “Tapas Night” (shishito peppers, papas fritas with garlic aioli, Spanish meatballs, crispy churros) with Chef Tracy Carter.

Feb. 28: “Italian Classics: Back to Naples” (handmade fettuccini, chicken parmigiana, broccoli rabe, Sicilian salad, fresh cannoli) with Chef Dino Diaz.

March 6: “Flavors of Argentina” (grilled skirt steak and chimichurri, crispy smashed potatoes, warm rice pudding) with Chef Tracy Carter.

March 13: “Beef Bourguignon: A French Classic” (gently braised beef tenderloin, buttery whipped potatoes, supreme salad with maple apple cider vinaigrette, chocolate soufflé with Chantilly cream and raspberry coulis) with Chef Dino Diaz.

March 20: “Delightful Southern Charm: (fried green tomatoes, shrimp and cheesy griots, cornbread with honey butter) with Chef Tracy Carter.

April 3: “A Night in Thailand”



Chef Tracy Carter leads a cooking class at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute in Holyoke. Submitted photo

(green papaya salad in punchy lime vinaigrette, Thai grilled chicken, sweet coconut sticky rice with ripe mango) with Chef Tracy Carter.

April 17: “Stroll Middle East Markets” (fresh fried falafel with creamy tahini sauce, lemony tabouli salad, crisp phyllo dough layered with chopped nuts drizzled in decadent honey) with Chef Tracy Carter.

April 24: “Salmon Three Ways” (salmon with homemade pesto a la Genovese, Salmon with citrus soy glaze, salmon with homemade Cajun rub, asparagus risotto Milanese, New York style lemon cheesecake) with Chef Dino

Diaz.

May 1: “Visit to Asia, a Light and Refreshing Journey” (crisp vegetable tempura with bold, garlic-vinegar dipping sauce, summer rolls with plump shrimp and spicy, tangy chili peanut sauce, coconut panna cotta) with Chef Tracy Carter.

May 8: “Show Stopper Starters” (seared scallops, stuffed mushrooms, tenderloin crostini, artichoke hearts a la franchise) with Chef Dino Diaz.

Each single-session, hands-on “Cooking Confidently” class has a unique culinary theme. Participants will learn how to prepare appetizers, salads,

sauces, entrees and desserts, dine on their creations, and leave with leftovers and the knowledge and skills to replicate those recipes at home.

In addition, Chef Maria Moreno-Contreras will run three Thursday night baking classes this spring each focusing on a different dessert: “Petit Fours, Glaces and European Macaroons” on April 9, “The Decadent Ganache Torte” on May 14, and “Contemporary Chiffon Layer Cake” on May 28.

All the cooking and baking classes meet from 6 to 9 p.m. at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke. The cost for each class is \$84, and space is limited.

Tracy Carter of Chicopee is a graduate of the International Culinary Schools at the Art Institute in Los Angeles, an HCC Culinary Arts program instructor and a freelance food stylist for the Food Network.

Domingo “Dino” Diaz Jr. of Springfield is a professional chef, HCC adjunct faculty member, and a 2012 graduate of HCC’s Culinary Arts program.

Maria Moreno-Contreras of Easthampton is a baking instructor in HCC’s Culinary Arts program and a professional baker who previously worked at the Blue Heron Restaurant in Sunderland and operated her own local baking business, Chilean Sweets.

To register, visit www.hcc.edu/bce and search for “food” or call 413-552-2123.

Vega, fellow legislators row to fight brain tumors

Teams of up to eight rowers, including several local politicians, will gather at 11 a.m. this Sunday, Feb. 9, for a Row-Athon, to collectively row 42,195 meters at Nasty Habit CrossFit in Holyoke.

Organized by state Rep. Aaron Vega, D-Holyoke, who lost his father to a brain tumor eight years ago, A Nasty Row to Beat Brain Tumors aims to raise awareness about brain tumors and raise funds or research.

Vega hopes the event will raise \$5,000 for the National Brain Tumor Society. Participating teams include Reps R Us team, a team led by Democratic state Reps. John Velis of Westfield, Michael Finn of West Springfield with his son Charlie, Brian Ashe of Longmeadow,



Rep. Aaron Vega

Sean Garbally of Arlington, Lindsey Sabadosa of Northampton, and Patrick Kearney of Scituate.

Vega’s own team comprises family members and is called EvenRow. Other teams include Holyoke Jakes composed of Holyoke firefighters, Ergs Don’t Float composed of members from Holyoke Rows, along with a team from CrossFit SVG in South

Hadley, two teams from CrossFit Echo in Ludlow and two CrossFit athlete teams from Nasty Habit CrossFit.

“I am so honored to have the support of the HFD, my colleagues, and the CrossFit community to help with this event,” Vega said.

The National Brain Tumor Society

invests in, mobilizes and unites the brain tumor community to discover a cure, deliver effective treatments, and advocate for patients and their care partners.

“As you may know, I lost my father to a brain tumor eight years ago. He had battled the tumors over 15 years, having five surgeries during that duration at Mercy Hospital. Last year, my wife, Debra, and my son Odin, participated in the NBTS walk in Boston. Now we feel inspired to do something locally to support the great work they do,” Vega added. “There are over 700,000 people in the U.S who are living with a brain tumor, and nearly 80,000 will be diagnosed this year. Brain tumors can be deadly, they significantly impact quality of life, and they change everything for a patient and their loved ones. Brain tumors do not discriminate, inflicting men, women and

children of all ages, races and ethnicities. More than 28,000 children are estimated to be living with a brain tumor in the United States alone. On behalf of my family and the larger brain tumor community, I thank you in advance for your consideration.”

Vega said teams are still looking for local business donations and gift certificates to use as prizes for teams and to feed the rowers over the 2-3 hours it will take to row 42,195 meters.

For more information, search for “A Nasty Row to Beat Brain Tumors” at Facebook.com or visit www.nbtevents.braintumor.org and search for the event listing.

Nasty Habit CrossFit is at 68 Winter St., Holyoke. Supporters are welcome to attend Sunday’s fundraiser to cheer on the rowers.

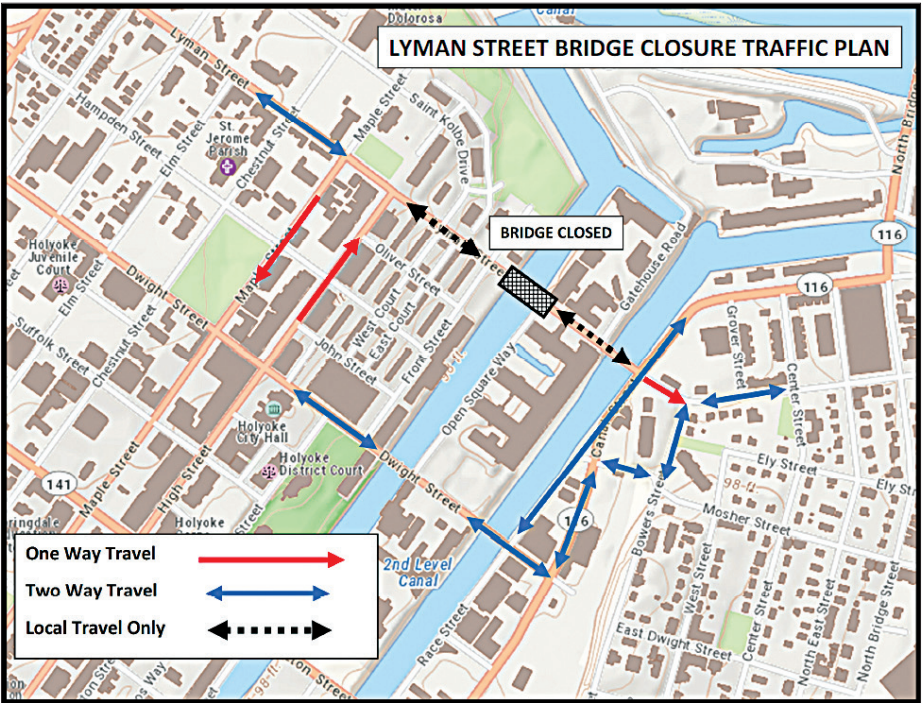
Lyman St. Bridge to be closed until late 2021

Starting Wednesday, Feb. 12, the Lyman Street Bridge over the First Level Canal will be closed to traffic as the next phase of work on the removal and reconstruction of the existing bridge begins.

This much-needed project in downtown Holyoke is being completed by New England Infrastructure, working for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). In addition to full replacement of the bridge, this project includes improvements to Lyman Street from Front to Canal and Main streets. This \$6.6 million project is expected to continue for another two years and will require the shutdown of Lyman Street to through traffic through at least the fall of 2021.

During this period, through traffic heading toward Canal and Main streets will be detoured onto Maple Street, and traffic from Canal and Main streets will be detoured onto Race and Dwight streets.

Lyman Street will remain open to local traffic at both ends and, a temporary footbridge has been installed to allow pedestrians to cross the canal. Temporary modifications to the traffic signals at the Lyman-Canal-Main intersection have been made and one-way travel only will be allowed on Lyman Street between the intersection and Bowers Street, to provide for access to the lower section of Lyman Street in the Gatehouse Road area during construction.



Submitted image

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Food bank honors Vega for advocacy on school breakfast

The Greater Boston Food Bank, the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, recently honored state Rep. Aaron Vega, D-Holyoke, with its House of Representatives Public Advocate of the Year Award for his unwavering support as a co-sponsor of Breakfast After the Bell legislation.

“We work on and we advocate for many important issues as state reps. and state senators, but I believe that feeding our children is one of the most important issues we work on,” said Vega. “I want to thank my colleagues, especially Rep. Andy Vargas, who shares the passion and understanding for this and so many other issues we work on together. I want to thank the Rise & Shine Coalition, with an extra thanks to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and their amazing team that do so much to bring food to our residents.”

The Public Advocate of the Year Award recognizes officials who have shown a strong commitment to the provision and protection of emergency food assistance food policy in Massachusetts,

and ensuring those struggling with hunger have enough to eat every day.

“Representative Vega has been deeply engaged with the Greater Boston Food Bank and Rise and Shine Massachusetts, and is a champion for expanding breakfast in his own hometown of Holyoke,” said Catherine D’Amato, GBFB’s president and CEO. “As a co-sponsor of the Breakfast After the Bell legislation in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, his work will ensure that all students have access to a healthy breakfast as they start their school day.”

The Breakfast After the Bell bill will require all high-poverty K-12 public schools to offer breakfast after the instructional day begins. Expanding the window for school breakfast would increase food access and decrease food insecurity for approximately 150,000 children across the state.

“Let’s use every tool we have to remove obstacles and ensure our kids get the best education they can without worrying about where their next meal is



Catherine D’Amato, Greater Boston Food Bank president and CEO, presents state Reps. Andres Vargas and Aaron Vega with the Public Advocate of the Year Award. Submitted photo

coming from,” said Vega.

The Public Advocate of the Year Awards were presented at GBFB’s Partner Appreciation Day event on Jan.

24. Other awardees included state Rep. Andres Vargas, D-Haverhill, and state Sen. Michael Rodrigues, D-Westport. For more information, visit GBFB.org.

Culinary student-made lunches now available to public, twice a month

For the first time, beginning next week, Holyoke Community College will open its Wednesday culinary arts program luncheon series to the public.

For years, the spring semester lunches, prepared by HCC culinary arts students and instructors a part of their A La Carte Cooking and Food Service Course, have been open only to HCC faculty, staff, students and invited guests. Now, members of the public are being invited to dine at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke, to indulge in a series of Wednesday lunches featuring a different culinary theme each week.

The three-course meals are offered free of charge, with a suggested dona-

tion of \$10 to the President’s Student Emergency Fund, which is managed by the HCC Foundation. The fund is used for students experiencing food or housing insecurity in need of immediate assistance.

“As guests at our culinary lunch series, members of the community can take part in our students’ academic success by providing them with real-world experiences that lead to meaningful careers,” said Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of Institutional Advancement and



executive director of the HCC Foundation. “But beyond that, many of our students face real barriers, such as food insecurity and homelessness. Guests can help them overcome these barriers by simply visiting the Culinary Arts Institute for a freshly prepared, delicious meal and making a donation.”

A chocolate mousse prepared by culinary arts students shows Holyoke Community College pride at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute. Submitted photo

Lunches will be open to the public on the following dates: Feb. 12 and Feb. 26 (Spanish tapas); March 11 and March 25 (Italian); April 1 and April 8 (French bistro), April 15 and April 22 (brunch); May 6 and May 14 (American diner). Full menus for each lunch are available at hcc.edu/culinary-lunch-series.

Guests have a choice of four seating times: 11:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m., noon, and 12:15 p.m. Because seating is limited, reservations are required and will be granted on a first-come basis. To reserve a seat or seats, contact HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute coordinator Stacy Graves at 413-552-2838 or sgraves@hcc.edu.

Sign up for genealogy workshop Weds.

Signups are being taken for “Organizing Your Family History Research,” a workshop to be held next Wednesday at the Holyoke Public Library.

This workshop will help participants develop strategies for controlling the vast collection of materials that accumulate in the course of family history research. Hillary Schau’s tips and tricks will be useful for both paper-based and digital genealogists.

Schau is a professional genealogist from Western Massachusetts who has been helping people with their research

and individual brick walls for many years. She is a 2015 graduate of Boston University’s Genealogical Research Certificate Program, a volunteer at the Family Search Affiliate Library (Chicopee Library), and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society.

The workshop is 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the Computer Classroom at the library, at 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke. Participation is free, but advance registration is required at 413-420-8107.

Library to look into old burial grounds

Local historian Bob Comeau will present “Burial Grounds of Holyoke” at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, in the Community Room of the Holyoke Public Library.

Comeau will draw on his extensive research into local burial ground, cemetery and church history to explore the many factors that determined burial places at different points in Holyoke’s history. The talk is free and open to the public. The library is at 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke. For more information, call 413-420-8107.

Registrations are also being accept-

ed for two upcoming genealogy classes at the Holyoke Public Library. For more information or to sign up, call the Holyoke History Room at 413-420-8107.

“Organizing Your Family History Research” with Hillary Schau is at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the third-floor computer room. This class is limited to 12 participants.

“Going Paperless: Digitizing Your Genealogical Research” is a live, interactive webinar with nationally known genealogist Melissa Johnson, at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 29, on the ground floor of the library.

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Singers to share ‘Dreams and Defiance’ Feb. 29

Wistariahurst will host Dreams and Defiance, a concert by Pamela Means and Diana Alvarez, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29.

Dreams and defiance, necessary ingredients for all social change, illuminate the musical renderings of these visionary musician-activist-educators. Tickets are \$15 and available at wistariahurst.org and at the door. The concert will be on the first floor of the Main House at Wistariahurst, 238 Cabot St., Holyoke. For accessibility information, visit wistariahurst.org/about-us/accessibility-information.

Pamela Means is a singer-songwriter, guitarist and versatile vocalist known for penning political tunes. A conservatory-trained musician, Means also fronts her own jazz quartet, breathing life into classics once sung by Billie Holiday,



Diana Alvarez, left, and Pamela Means will co-headline “Dreams and Defiance,” a concert at Wistariahurst on Feb. 29.

Submitted photos

Chet Baker and the like. She recently took on a new project, performing all of the Beatles’ Abbey Road album, solo acoustic, in celebration of its 50th anniversary. She has independently released nine albums and a 10th is slated for 2020.

Dr. Diana Alvarez’s fierce Xicana Xingona voice creates a gripping atmosphere that audiences call “transcendent.” Alvarez’s soulful, bilingual songs exalt queer love and liberation, and are drawn from her origins in the border-

lands of South Texas, where she grew up singing to the Gulf of Mexico. In her music, Alvarez often grapples with her solo migration to the Northeast as a means to shift the tides of oppression in her family and beyond. Her songs are offerings for familia, and honor the “in-between-ness” of culture, identity and language. She is also the composer and filmmaker behind the multimedia performance “Quiero Volver: A Xicanx Ritual Opera,” described by the press as “a visually and acoustically stunning performance meant to honor women, non-binary and genderqueer people of color.”

Wistariahurst is an educational and cultural center owned and operated by the city of Holyoke and supported by The Wistariahurst Foundation. For more information, visit wistariahurst.org.

Week of early voting for presidential primary election

The Holyoke City Clerk’s Office recently announced that all registered voters will again be able to vote early for next month’s presidential primary and special state senate primary elections.

“Early voting makes the most fundamental right of our citizens more convenient than ever to exercise,” said City Clerk Brenna Murphy McGee. “We encourage all our citizens to exercise that right and take advantage of the opportunity to vote on their schedules.”

Polls will be open as usual on Tuesday, March 3, but voters may instead choose to participate in early voting from Feb. 24 to 28. Prior to the enactment of this new law, the only way a registered voter was allowed to vote prior to Election Day was through absentee voting. Although absentee

voting will still be available for registered voters who qualify, only those who will be absent from the city on Election Day, or have a disability or religious belief that prevents them from going to the polls, are legally allowed to use an absentee ballot.

Unlike absentee voting, early voting is open to any registered voter. Voters do not need an excuse or reason to vote early.

Early voting can be done in person or by mail. In Holyoke, early voting can be done in person, Monday through Friday, Feb. 24-28, at City Hall, 536 Dwight St., Holyoke, 8:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Feb. 25, early voting will also be available from 9 a.m. to noon at the Senior Center, 291 Pine St., Holyoke. Registered voters also have

the option to request an early voting ballot through the mail, by filling out the application found at www.holyoke.org/departments/city-clerk/#extra7-tab and returning it to the Registrar of Voter’s Office, 536 Dwight St., Holyoke.

Participants in early voting, like voters on March 3, will be able to vote in the presidential primary election, as well as the primary for the special state senate election. Registered members of the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian and Green-Rainbow parties can vote on their party’s ballot; political independents (“unenrolled”) can choose to vote on any party’s primary ballot.

Those who do not vote in the early voting period can cast their ballots on March 3 at the usual precinct polling places in Holyoke.

Register by Feb. 12

Regardless of whether a voter wants to take advantage of early voting, vote absentee or vote on Election Day, the first step is registering to vote. Massachusetts residents can check their registration status, and find information on how to register to vote, at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele, or call the city Registrar of Voters Office at 413-322-5540. Online registrations are taken at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com. All one needs is a license or identification issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles to apply online. To be eligible to vote in the March 3 election, a voter must register or make any necessary changes to his or her voter registration by Feb. 12. Any additional questions can be directed to the city clerk at 413-322-5520.

Mater Dolorosa School announces honor roll

Principal Maureen Donelan recently announced the Mater Dolorosa School second quarter honor roll for 2019-20.

“Our students strive for academic excellence and I am pleased to present this quarter’s honorees,” stated Donelan. “At our school, the faculty is diligent in providing the students with the best tools possible for their success. I am so proud of all of our students and staff.”

Mater Dolorosa School, a Roman Catholic school in the spirit of St. Francis, enrolls students in preschool through grade 8 at its campus at Maple Street and St. Kolbe Drive. Mater Dolorosa School is accredited by the

New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Grade 4

First Honors: Eoin Balicki, Masen Cruz, Eliza Curran, Grace Garrant, Ty Sattler, Nevaeh Vieira, Anna Wesloski.

Second Honors: Oisin Andrews, Raymond Gourde, Rachel Rondeau, Hunter Skibel.

Grade 5

First Honors: Isabella Hanson.
Second Honors: Lily Aurnhammer, Emma Chateauneuf, Owen Cubi, Katelyn Krause, Timothy Loughrey,

Gerald Moreau, Jefferson Wood.

Grade 6

No honorees this quarter.

Grade 7

First Honors: Cooper Skibel, Brendan Stevenson.

Second Honors: Vanessa Antil, Harman Dhaliwal, Brayden Kukucka, Jack Loughrey.

Grade 8

First Honors: Kelsy Brainard, Caitlin O’Brien.

Second Honors: Anastasia Fedora.

Drop-in chess club returns at public library

Both children and adults can learn to play chess in a series of drop-in sessions at the Holyoke Public Library beginning next week. Andy Morris-Friedman will host the free Chess Club from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on four consecutive Fridays, starting Feb. 13. Players do not need to attend every session. Limited space is available; advance registration is recommended at 413-420-8101. The library is at 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke.

PVPA student concert benefits earthquake relief in Puerto Rico

Students of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School will perform a concert in Holyoke next Thursday as part of a long-distance collaboration with Alcides Figueroa School in Puerto Rico — and to raise money for earthquake relief in Puerto Rico.

The PVPA students were originally scheduled to travel to the island on Jan. 27, after taking poems written by the Puerto Rican students and setting them to music. After last month’s earthquakes, Alcides Figueroa School has been closed indefinitely. PVPA students will instead record a video of next week’s performance, while Puerto Rican students record a video of themselves reading their poems.

The concert is at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at Gateway City Arts, 92 Race St., Holyoke. The students will be joined in their concert by award-winning performance poet, playwright and performer Magdalena Gómez.

All are welcome to attend this concert, with a suggested \$15 donation in lieu of admission. Funds raised will be given to organizations supporting the hardest-hit earthquake victims.

Drinks are available at the concert, as well as Race Street Tacos. Judd’s, a new Czech-American restaurant at Gateway City Arts, will be open 5-10 p.m. Reservations are recommended; call 413-650-0786.

Valentine dance to aid Harmony House

Harmony House of Western Massachusetts will benefit from next weekend’s “Sweetheart Dance” sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Harley Owner’s Group and Knights of Columbus Council 4044 of Chicopee.

The dinner and dance will be held Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee. It begins at 5 p.m. with cocktails, and dinner will be served at 6, followed by dancing and fun. The cost is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple, and includes dinner, dessert and music by DJ Stephan. There will be fun and raffle prizes. Dress is casual — Valentine’s Day attire is optional — with open seating.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, a home for the terminally ill, along with the Thanksgiving dinner produced annually by the Knights

of Columbus, Council 4044. Tickets are available at the K of C’s Member Lounge on Tuesday and Thursday nights 6- 7:30 p.m., or by calling Steve Dubreuil of the K of C at 413-250-1677, Libby Martel of Pioneer Valley HOG at 413-530-1389, or Amy Corcoran of Harmony House at 954-495-3236.

Staffed mainly by volunteers of all kinds — nurses, CNAs, caregivers, companions, and more — Harmony House is totally privately funded through the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations. Contributions are gratefully accepted at all times. For more information, visit www.harmonyhouse-wma.org or email harmonyhousewma@gmail.com. Donations by check are accepted at Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, P.O. Box 6135, Holyoke, MA 01041. Harmony House is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation.

Councilors receive badges in revived tradition

By Michael Ballway
mballway@turley.com

The next time an official with a badge appears at your door, he or she might just be asking for your vote.

After a gap of several decades, Holyoke's City Council has revived the tradition of issuing metal badges — similar to police officers' badges, but smaller — to its members.

"It was just one of the ceremonial trappings of the office," said former Council President Kevin Jourdain. "It's also a reminder to the official [that] as a councilor, you represent the city, as a city officer."

Council President Todd McGee said at the meeting on Dec. 17, 2019, that he was inspired to bring back the badges after watching a "show and tell" put on by Jourdain during his last meeting as council president in 2017. Jourdain, who had first been elected to the council in 1993, recalled that at his last meeting, he brought in several historical artifacts related to the council and lamented the loss of Holyoke's unique political traditions, including the badges.

Jourdain said he had been issued a badge in the 1990s, like previous council-

ors and aldermen dating back to at least the 1940s, but the tradition apparently died out sometime in the late 1990s or 2000s.

Council President Todd McGee said the new badges were purchased using Police Department funds, as part of the same budget item used for police officers' badges. Although they are issued by the Holyoke Police, the councilors' badges do not grant them any police powers or privileges.

They may be of some practical use in an emergency, said McGee. As the badges are personalized with the councilor's name, they could be used to prove identity and allow a councilor access to a cordoned-off area, to examine broken city infrastructure or comfort a stricken family in the course of their normal council duties. He emphasized that the badges would not be used as a free pass to enter any restricted area and interfere with public safety operations.

Jourdain said he supports the badges as a city tradition worth maintaining and as a symbolic token of elected officials' responsibility.

"I think it's important to maintain those traditions, and it's a great piece of history," Jourdain said. "No matter how long these people serve, it'll serve as a nice



City Councilor Joseph McGiverin examines his new badge after the tradition was revived at a December 2019 council meeting.

Photo by Michael Ballway

reminder of their service."

Jourdain said in the past, several city officials were issued similar badges, including members of boards such as the License Commission and Fire Commission. Additionally, back in the days when Massachusetts only required rear license plates, city councilors were given official placards to attach to their car's front license plate holder.

By issuing the badges in December, McGee ensured that councilors Daniel Bresnahan and Jossie Valentin received the mementoes before they left public office. New badges will be issued to Howard Greaney and Libby Hernandez, who joined the council this month. The other 11 current councilors were all re-elected from the previous term and received their badges in December.

HCC president chosen for national leadership fellowship

Holyoke Community College President Christina Royal has been selected for a national fellowship for first-time college presidents administered by the Washington, D.C.-based Aspen Institute.

The Aspen New Presidents Fellowship is a new initiative designed to support community college presidents in the early years of their tenure to accelerate transformational change on behalf of students.

Royal, who lives in Northampton, was one of two community college presidents from Massachusetts to be chosen, along with Luis Pedraja of Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. They are part of the inaugural group of 25 Aspen Fellows selected from more than 100 applicants nationwide.

The leaders, all of whom are in their first five years as a college president, will

engage in a seven-month fellowship beginning in June 2020.

"The Aspen Institute has a reputation for excellence, and I am honored to be selected as part of the inaugural group alongside President Pedraja," said Royal, who started working at HCC in January 2017 after three years as provost and vice president of academic affairs at Inver Hills Community College in Minnesota. "Higher education is experiencing a lot of disruption as the world changes. We are being challenged in greater ways to alter the ways we educate and provide support for students as demographics shift and their needs and preferences change. It is an exciting opportunity to be in the company of other scholars and community col-



Christina Royal

lege presidents who want to grow and learn in an intense environment that exposes us to new models of thinking."

The fellows were selected for their commitment to student success and equity, willingness to take risks to improve outcomes, understanding of the importance of community partnerships, and ability to lead change.

"We know more than ever before about how community colleges can improve outcomes for students, both in and after college," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "And the urgency for them to do so only increases, especially for students of color and low-income students. These fel-

lows have shown they are fully, urgently committed to excellence and equity, and we look forward to working alongside them."

JPMorgan Chase is funding the Aspen New Presidents Fellowship as part of New Skills at Work, a five-year, \$350 million investment to support community colleges and other pathways to great careers and economic mobility.

Nearly 80 percent of community college presidents nationwide plan to retire in the next decade. Through this fellowship and its other leadership programs, Aspen is committed to helping to replace those exiting the presidency with an exceptionally capable and highly diverse talent pool.

For more information, visit highered.aspeninstitute.org/meet-the-aspen-presidential-fellows-new-presidents.

Volunteers needed for city boards

The city is seeking to fill vacancies on three city commissions, the mayor's office announced last week.

The Conservation Commission is the environmental agency in Holyoke responsible for protecting the land, water, and biological resources of the city. Commissioners are appointed by the mayor and work to achieve Holyoke's conservation goals.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is made up of three members of the community, appointed by the mayor. The purpose of the commission is to set policies and advise the department head, mayor and City Council on needed parks and recreation programs; plan, acquire, and develop recreation facilities, parks, and open

space areas to meet current and future needs as the city grows.

The Historical Commission was established to preserve and develop the historical and archeological assets of the city. The commission maintains an inventory of buildings, areas, and sites of architectural or historical importance in Holyoke. It collects reference information and can assist those seeking National Register nominations for their buildings or neighborhoods.

Any resident who wishes to apply to serve on any of these three commissions should send a letter of interest along with a resume to the mayor's office at mayorsoffice@holyoke.org or in person at City Hall, 536 Dwight St., Holyoke.

Drag performers to lead story hours

"Mr. Pickle and Friends" will host a story hour with drag performers at the Holyoke Public Library twice a month beginning 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11.

With a focus on inclusion and acceptance, Mr. Pickle will read relevant books to children. Juice boxes and pre-packaged snacks will be available. Other storytime activities will include dressing up, singing and dancing, and other family-friendly fun. Participation is free, but seats are limited; families should call the library to register at 413-420-8105. Story hours will continue on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The

library is at 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke.

Mr. Pickle promises a "safe place for all children to express themselves creatively."

Mr. Pickle is drag performer and Holyoke resident Danielle Pikul. She began "Mr. Pickle and Friends Story Hour" as a way to show children that with compassion, education and a little exposure, acceptance and inclusion become second nature. Each story hour will feature a guest from the local drag community. Any performers interested in being a guest of Mr. Pickle should email pickledpikul@gmail.com.

Library legislative breakfast next Fri.

The Holyoke Public Library will host the 2020 Western Massachusetts Libraries Legislative Breakfast next week.

The event will run 8-10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at the library, 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke. All city residents are invited to show their support for adequate funding of public libraries, and speak with their elected officials. Among those scheduled to attend are Mayor Alex Morse, state Rep. Aaron Vega, D-Holyoke, and state Rep.

John Velis, D-Westfield, one of two candidates for the local state Senate seat.

A continental breakfast begins at 8 a.m. in the library's Community Room, supported by the Western Massachusetts Library Advocates and the Holyoke Library. To register for this breakfast or for more information, contact Nancy Kocsmiersky, HPL Development Office, at 413-420-8109 or nancy@holyokelibrary.org, or visit www.holyokelibrary.org.

Help available applying for college aid

Holyoke High School, in collaboration with GEAR UP, will host a Financial Aid Completion Day for families of high school seniors interested in attending college.

Two sessions will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13: a morning session from 8:30 to 10:30, and an evening session from 4 to 6:30.

During each session, parents and children will have an opportunity to

complete the Financial Aid Form for Student Application, or FAFSA, with the help of a financial aid expert. Financial aid is available to help students pay for college, and the first step to accessing those funds is to complete the FAFSA application.

Advance registration is required by Tuesday, Feb. 10, by contacting Mary Colón at mcolon@valleyopp.com or 413-579-8351.

Read The Sun online at www.sun.turley.com

Don't get scorched during Burn Week

This week is National Burn Awareness Week, an important time to reflect on simple ways everyone can ensure injuries from burns are prevented following this year's theme from the American Burn Association: Contact burns — hot surfaces damage skin.

"Burn Awareness Week is an opportunity for fire, health, and medical professionals to review some simple safety steps people can take to prevent burn injuries at home, at work, and outdoors," said State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said.

According to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System, children under 5 make up 25 percent of all reported burn injuries. Over the past decade, 45 percent of all contact burns were to children under five years old. Last November, an 11-month year old boy received a third-degree burn touching the glass portion of an oven while another fell on a baseboard heater, severely burning his thigh, calf, and heel.

The little explorers investigate their environments as they grow, a natural part of the learning and growth. However, it's important to be supervising these inquisitive infants and ensure they stay out of harm's way and the state Department of Fire Services has several suggestions on ways to do it.

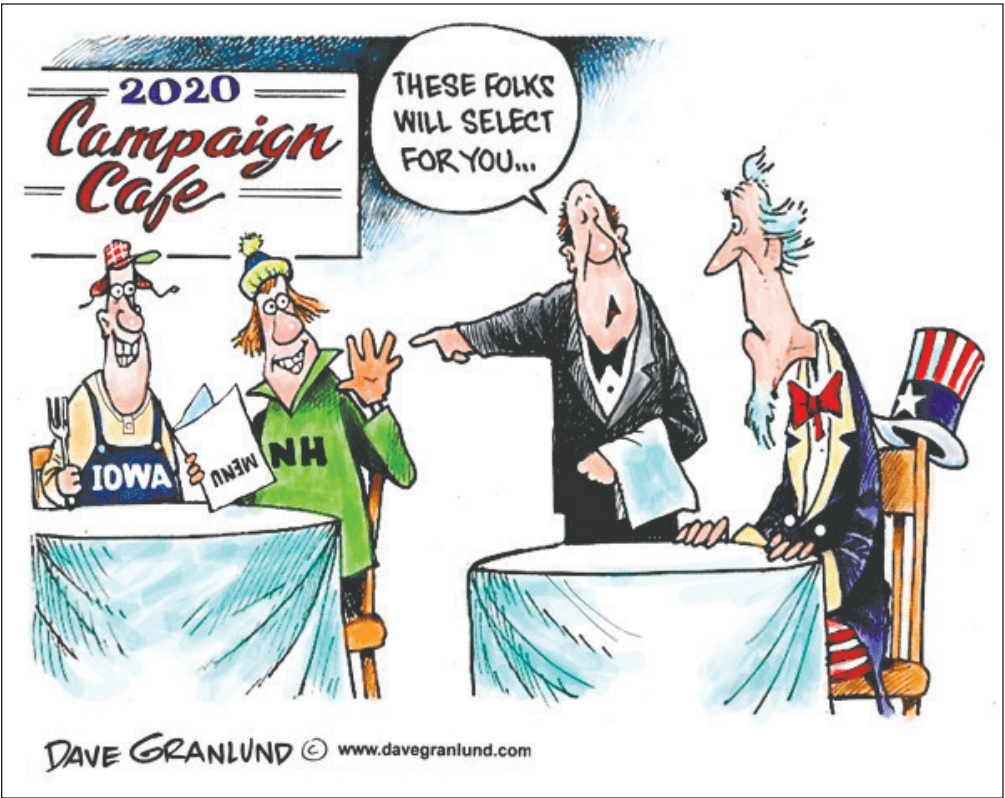
When indoors, keep a careful eye on children around space heaters, woodstoves, fireplaces, radiators, and stoves and ovens in use. Use baby gates, highchairs, and playpens to keep them at least 3 feet away from anything that can get hot. When they wander outside, maintain the same 3-foot buffer from grills and campfires. Make sure there are no tripping hazards that could cause someone to fall into the fire. Keep feet protected with shoes for hot pavement and sand. It's also advised to keep pets away from hot pavement, as well.

Make sure all heating pads, electric blankets, and space heaters are turned off before going to sleep at night. This is especially important for older adults as skin thins with age, making it more susceptible to serious burns from these devices.

While being a busy bee in the kitchen cooking, use hot pads when available. Long oven mitts are the best when needing to reach in or over hot surfaces, such as the inside of an oven or grill. Assume all pots and pans are hot before touching. Treat items coming out of the microwave the same as you would something that is in the stove.

Ostroskey reminds everyone that hot liquids "burn like fire," and are the leading burn problem in Massachusetts. Don't hold or carry a child while handling a hot drink and consid-

See BURN WEEK, page 7



Advice, season by season

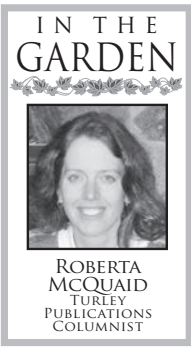
Last week we took a look at where to best site our gardens. In this week's column let's go season by season looking at the plants we can utilize to create outstanding displays.

Spring

Spring-flowering bulbs are at their peak from late March through May. In this part of the country bulbs are planted the fall prior to bloom. Simply dig a hole twice the depth of the bulb you are planting and insert it pointed side up, then back fill. Position the next bulb twice its width away.

Tulips and daffodils are the best, most long-lasting choices for a display garden. You can use different varieties of each within the same bed to extend overall bloom-time to six weeks or more. For example, try single early tulips, Darwin hybrid tulips and single late tulips together for staggered flowers before and after the "main event." You can also experiment with mixed plantings for added interest and appeal. Pair 'Gavota,' a midseason triumph tulip with small-cupped narcissus 'Barrett Browning' for a show-stopping symphony. Or, try combining double-early tulips 'magic carpet mix' with blue grape hyacinth (Muscari armeniacum). Blooming in unison, they will create lots of garden drama, with the rich, royal blue color of the grape hyacinths literally popping out from the mass of yellow, red, white and pink tulips. Because grape hyacinths are shorter, and a different flower type than the tulips, two additional dimensions of interest are at play.

With blooming behind them, bulbs can



be dug up and discarded, or moved to another, less conspicuous part of the yard. Simply remove spent flower stems and replant the rest, tops and all, to that location immediately so that the foliage can ripen and ensure next years flowers. Be forewarned: many tulip varieties are not dependable perennials. Blooms will peter out until the bulb has a chance to replenish itself. For this reason, many professionals don't bother to use them for more than a single season.

Now that our display gardens are empty, it is time to concentrate on the second and longest season of the gardener's calendar, summer.

Summer

Summer annuals arrive on the shelves of garden centers and nurseries in early May. While some varieties can withstand a light frost, most should be planted no earlier than Memorial Day in our locale. The options are endless! Choose from trusty old standbys, "unsurpassed" proven winners, and even unique heirloom selections.

As long as the plant can tolerate a variety of summer weather conditions (after all, this is New England!), is resistant to most diseases and insect pests, has manageable maintenance requirements, and has a long season of interest, it can be worthy of placement in your display garden. Surprisingly, there are many such annuals that fit the bill.

Three tried and true annuals that come to mind are marigolds, salvias and zinnias. I can think of no better, brighter or more

See SEASON, page 7

the **Sun**

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"All of this is meaningless unless Holyoke, the School Committee, is part of the decision."

Natalia Munoz

Letters to the Editor Policy

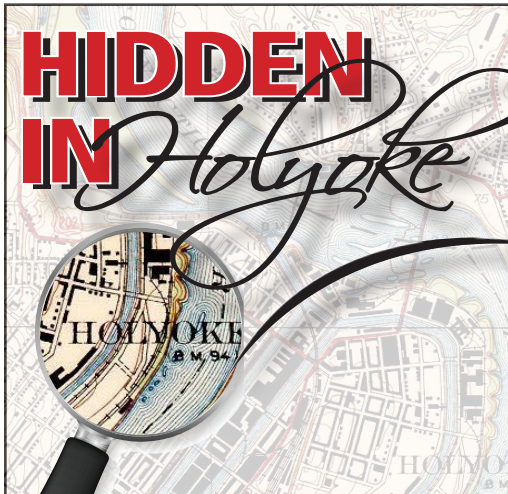
Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



Last week's "Hidden in Holyoke" was a decorative pillar outside Holyoke District Court. It was correctly guessed by Don Diller and Alice and Dexter Gess.



Each week, The Holyoke Sun will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to "Hidden in Holyoke" via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday's edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact The Holyoke Sun at 536-5333.

SPEAK OUT, from page 1

Receivership,” Jan. 17, page 7). The letter said the dismissal of three popular sports coaches at Holyoke High School, Tom Brassil, Bill Rigali and Kevin Roberts, was emblematic of how veteran educators are treated under state control.

The coaches’ dismissal touched an emotional spot for several councilors, including Terence Murphy, who called it “a disgrace,” and James Leahy.

“We didn’t say ‘Hail, Holyoke High School’ because of receivership. We said ‘Hail, Holyoke High School’ because of these educators,” said Leahy. He added: “I don’t want to say anything I’ll regret, but read between the lines. Holyoke Strong.”

The ex-teachers also told the council that improvements in the graduation rate at Holyoke High School are the result of a decline in standards, not an improvement in education. Half as many Holyoke High School students passed Advanced Placement exams in 2019 when compared to 2015, the last year before state receivership, said Charlene

Mahoney. On the standardized MCAS test, Holyoke’s scores over the past five years have lost ground compared to the state average in almost every subject, at almost every grade level, she said.

Marie Mew, who retired in June 2018, said receivership also brought a decline in discipline.

“When I first started at HHS in 2005, it was understood we had difficulties that other school districts did not share,” Mew said. “However, what we did have was order and structure, which seemed to sharply decline after receivership. For example, prior to receivership, students were held accountable for absences and tardiness. The last three to five years I taught at HHS, students caught on real fast that there would be no consequences for not attending class, or coming in tardy. By the time I retired in 2018, many students were absent 20, 30, 40 days from class and tardy to class anywhere up to 70 times, with very few experiencing consequences.”

She said the receivership administration dropped a requirement that students earn a 50 percent average to qualify for summer school, and eliminated

hall monitors and the mandatory wearing of ID, resulting in “students wandering the halls, unsupervised,” during class times.

“We all saw this as a very serious security issue, as well as a lowering of learning standards,” Mew said. “Students cannot learn if they are not in class.”

Though he is not connected with the group of former teachers who spoke on Tuesday, first-year Holyoke High School bilingual math teacher Andres Kwart made some of the same points.

He said Holyoke’s schools need to be led by local people who understand the community’s history, have lived with its challenges and are directly accountable to local voters.

“It’s very clear that this really unique situation we have here in Holyoke is not something they’re ready to handle,” said Kwart. “The receivership is not preparing us to have a resilient community.”

Councilor Juan Anderson-Burgos said all of the teachers who spoke Tuesday gave him cause for concern about the city’s schools, and optimism that Holyoke can solve its own problems.

“Every word that you said touched my heart,” he said. “We are Holyoke Strong, and together we can do this. We just have to come together.”

Frustration about the institution of state receivership was also evident at a community forum on Monday where residents were asked to share their thoughts about what skills and qualities the state should look for when hiring a new receiver to replace Stephen Zrike, who will step down in June.

Many attendees, including a few School Committee members, expressed frustration with how long the receivership has lasted, and said they don’t want to stay in receivership long enough for the next receiver to stay five years.

Even if the city cannot overturn state receivership, there may be ways to increase local input — if not actual control — in the school system, suggested Councilor Rebecca Lisi.

She said the School Committee, as elected representatives of Holyoke voters, retains its moral authority and should be able to “put some pressure and oversight on the receiver. They do have a voice. They do have meetings.”

SEASON, from page 6

welcoming palette choice than a combination of yellow, orange and red varieties of these plants positioned at your property’s sun-filled entrance. If you have a part-shade situation, use vivid-toned impatiens, begonias, or coleus instead, for an equally appealing show.

Get maximum enjoyment out of small gardens or container plantings by utilizing any number of proven winners on the market. Bred for unsurpassed growth, flowering and disease resistance, these summer annuals need little maintenance other than watering and periodic applications of fertilizer. In the ever popular purple-blue category try ‘angelface blue’ angelonia, along with strobilanthes dyerianus ‘Persian shield,’ in the middle of a large container. Plant acaevola ‘blue shamrock’ to trail over the front. Veer away from the monochromatic scenario for a minute by placing centaurea gymnocarpa ‘flashy lady,’ a finely-cut silver-leaved foliage plant, as a backdrop and watch the planter and its surrounding landscape come to life!

Over the last several years heirloom plants have made their way out of the annals of history and into our home gardens. Few varieties have proven the test of time like these plants have. As you would expect, most have noteworthy physical characteristics and equally as fascinating lore associated with them. Take ‘Love Lies Bleeding,’ for example, from the genus amaranthus. This dramatic plant draws the attention of passersby with its height, nearly four-feet tall, but more so by its blood-red tassles of tiny flowers that drape from the top of the plant all the way down to the ground. Did you know that distant cousins of this annual were used to make Amaranth, a grain that was a staple in the diet of the Aztecs? What fun it could be to share enthralling stories like these at your next garden party!

Usually by mid-September our summer display gardens are tired, and frosty mornings are looming. It’s best we empty the beds and get ready for autumn and all of its glory. Plan for this upcoming season with “grand finale” or “last hurrah” in mind.

Fall

Just because the calendar says we are approaching the darkest days of the year, there is no reason to hibernate before we have to. Why not robe your gardens in colors vibrant enough to match the surrounding hillsides? There are a number of cold-hardy plants available during this season of the year to let you do just that.

Get to the garden center early for the best selection of mums, flowering kale and cabbage. Mums are available in every autumnal shade, plus lavender and violet, white and even bicolors. There is also an endless array of flower types to choose from: cushion, button, daisy and decorative, among others. Select plants in bud with very little color showing; these will give you the most bang for your buck. Combine them with flowering cabbage and frilly-leaved flowering kale for a garden that will only intensify in color as the mercury drops.

Some gardeners think ahead by including frost tolerant annuals in their summer plantings. Dusty miller, blue salvia, calendula, sweet alyssum and snapdragons can each withstand a dip below freezing. Rather than remove these plants from the bed come September, add mums and kale to it for a unique combination of flower forms and textures.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

heated to 125 degrees or less and do not leave a child unattended in the bathtub.

Any burn that’s at least 5 percent of the body surface must be reported by physicians and hospitals to the Department of Fire Service. It’s a powerful injury prevention tool for health educators and policy makers. Lets all keep each other safe from burns throughout the year.

Duo offers free Spanish guitar concert

The Holyoke Public Library will welcome the duo of Eliezer Torres and Orlando Zayas for “Romantic Spanish Guitar,” a free concert, at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12.

For more information or to register for this program, call the library

at 413-420-8101. This concert is sponsored by Massachusetts Cultural Council, Holyoke Local Cultural Council, Holyoke Public Library and Puerto Rican Cultural Project. The library is at 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates number of days
- 6. When you hope to get there
- 9. Hairstyle
- 13. Black (Spanish)
- 14. Expresses pleasure
- 15. Away from wind
- 16. Tech pros organization
- 17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
- 18. Clean
- 19. Saints’ signal caller
- 21. A way to hunt
- 22. Poetries
- 23. Automobile
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Indicates before
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Short-billed rails
- 31. It pays to keep yours
- 33. On occasion

- 36. David __, US playwright
- 38. Slang for cigarette
- 39. Vaccine developer
- 41. Returned to health
- 44. Toni Morrison novel
- 45. Period between eclipses
- 46. Veterans battleground
- 48. Gang
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 52. Elaborate garments
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Checks
- 60. Horizontal passage
- 61. Steep hillsides
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Signs a name
- 65. __ Winger, actress
- 66. German river
- 67. Gov’t lawyers
- 68. Take something somewhere

CLUES DOWN

- 1. __ Blyton, children’s author
- 2. Colleague
- 3. “The African Queen” writer
- 4. Crater on the moon
- 5. Toward
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Identifies something close at hand
- 8. Sign language
- 9. Unbroken views
- 10. Ancient Greek City
- 11. Stretch out to grasp
- 12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
- 14. Humorous stories
- 17. Long song for a solo
- 20. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 21. City of Lights
- 23. A place to sleep
- 25. Advanced degree (abbr.)
- 26. The back
- 27. Furniture-makers

- Charles and “Ray”
- 29. Songs to a lover
- 30. Gland secretion
- 32. 10 meters
- 34. Disfigure
- 35. Stores grain
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. Catch
- 42. Promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. Russian space station
- 49. Banking giant
- 50. Served as an omen
- 52. Drenches
- 53. Type of sword
- 55. Minor planet
- 56. Messenger
- ribonucleic acid
- 57. Japanese ankle sock
- 58. Obtain in return for services
- 59. Waste matter
- 61. A proposal to buy at a specified price
- 65. Unit of loudness

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 13

CHECK OUT ALL THE

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er using a covered travel mug, even when indoors, to minimize potential spills. Do not leave the hot drinks on the edge of a counter or table, where the prying hands of curiosity might knock it over. Finally, supervise children in the bath and when they’re using faucets. Keep hot water

Adult spelling bee aids kids' nonprofit

It's time to spell again for the success of Holyoke children. The fifth annual Adult Spelling Bee to benefit Homework House of Holyoke will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, at Open Square in Holyoke. This annual event is one of the major fundraisers for the organization, which has been providing academic tutoring and mentoring for over 12 years to Holyoke school-age children free of charge.

The event is a friendly adult com-

petition between teams, each made up of three individuals who are asked to spell challenging words accurately. There are elimination rounds, knockout rounds and audience participants who also get their chance to win a prize. Team names are spirited and their dress creative. The contest is lively amongst the competitors and audience.

PeoplesBank is the Bee's Knees Sponsor of the event. Pennyfarthing Investment Management is a Bee-

Keepers Sponsor. Additional sponsorship opportunities and team registration are now available.

Homework House serves children, ages 6-12, from Holyoke public schools. Since its beginning, it has offered free tutoring and mentoring. Today, it offers services from three different locations in Holyoke. Tutors, many of whom are volunteers from local colleges and the community, provide individualized instruction to

strengthen children's educational learning and retention.

At the April 30 event, hearty hors d'oeuvres by Seth Mias Catering and a cash bar will be available. To register for a sponsorship, register a team or buy tickets, visit HomeWorkHouseBee.com, email Suzanne Boniface at sboniface@homeworkhouseholyokey.org, or call her at 413-265-1017. For more information on Homework House, visit HomeWorkHouseHolyoke.org.

Be our Valentine

Chocolate & Wine Open House

Saturday, February 22nd
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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Celebrate Valentine's Day with Day Brook Village. You're invited to join us for an open house and savor a decadent selection of chocolates, perfectly paired with a wine tasting. Discover what's new at our community, meet our residents and team members, and tour our continuum of care campus.

RSVP to Louise at 413-538-7551 by February 20th



298 Jarvis Avenue
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We're Perfecting the Art of Superior Care.



Last year's Homework House Spelling Bee winners were Nasty Habit Crossfit.

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TO BENEFIT THE MAURICE A. DONAHUE SCHOLARSHIP

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Knights still in running for playoff spot

While they have suffered a pair of setbacks during the past week, the Holyoke High School girls basketball team is still in the driver's seat to make a run at the playoffs. The Knights are 9-7, despite a recent 63-51 loss against Hampshire Regional High School. Hampshire, which has had some great runs recently in Division 3, is strong again this year. Holyoke was able to keep up with Hampshire in the first half, but really fell behind in the third quarter as the Red Raiders were able to keep up their hot shooting. Holyoke adjusted, but was outscored late. Bianca Ortiz had 14 points to lead Holyoke while Ashley Vazquez had 11 points.



Tenyah Morales shoots in the middle of pressure.



Destiny Calderon takes a long three-point shot.

Photos by David Henry



Bianca Ortiz makes an off-balance shot.



Rose Baez tries to get a hook shot on the hoop ahead of a block.



Ashley Vazquez nearly overruns the hoop as she shoots.

Western Mass. sectional tourney could be lost in statewide playoff

Editor's note: This is the second of a four-part series to break down the statewide tournament proposal, what it is, its effect on the Western Mass. region, the challenges, and how your athletic directors and coaches feel about it.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

With the impending vote on a statewide tournament sponsored by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, one of the biggest things being talked about in our region are the long-term effects it will have.

Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton

has repeatedly said during the past few months that "Western Mass. loves its tournament."

Under the MIAA proposal, that would be the biggest impact on the region. There would no longer be a "Western Mass. Champion."

The vote to pass the statewide tournament is likely to be successful, many athletic directors feel. This has led the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference, which is the governing body of high school sports locally, to consider holding its own tournament prior to whenever the state tournament is held.

Stratton said the PVIAC is working on a proposal to hold some type of tournament. He

did not say how it would be structured and how the competition would be separated. However, in order to have time for the tournament, it could cut into the regular season for certain sports. For example, the soccer season, now 18 games, could be lowered to 16 games to make time for a tournament.

One of the many reasons besides the love for the regional tournament, is because of the risk of so many Western Mass. teams having to travel long distances for the state tournament.

The current proposal of a 32-team tournament by the MIAA states the higher seed would host games in the first

See **TOURNAMENTS**, page 10

Tumultuous season for Knights takes positive turn

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Holyoke High School boys basketball team has gone through quite a bit during recent weeks, including a home stretch that included a brawl, metal detectors and massive police presence, and the cancellation of a game.

But a recent winning streak has the Knights back in tournament contention with an 8-6 record. The Knights still have challenging games on their Valley Wheel schedule, and will need to earn their final two wins in order to qualify for the Western Massachusetts Division 1 tournament.

In addition to two tough days at home, the Knights were forced to play an "empty arena" game on Saturday, Jan. 25.

After the Jan. 23 varsity matchup between Holyoke and Central was cancelled due to a major brawl during the JV game, the two teams made up the game on the following Saturday morning, with no one allowed in the Holyoke High School gymnasium.

The result was an 88-72 loss, which was unsurprising considering Central's recent dominance over Holyoke. Following the defeat, Holyoke went on a three-

See **KNIGHTS**, page 10

MIAA holds diversity summit for schools

FRAMINGHAM – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Massachusetts School Administrators’ Association (MSAA) held its third annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Summit at Framingham State University on Jan. 13. With over 220 attendees representing 65 schools, the 2020 Summit featured eight concurrent workshops covering subjects including: impact of race on daily life, para-sports, inclusive strategies, Unified Champion schools, working to undo bias and end hate, creating safe and supportive schools, making authentic connections, and cultural competency and mental health disparities. Mike Rubin, MIAA Assistant Associate said, “Two

goals that we established at the start of this inclusion mission were to promote diversity and encourage participation, interaction and understanding in our increasingly diverse society.” Summit presenters included members of the MIAA/MSAA DEI Committee, which consists of school administrators, supporting agencies, and representatives from higher education institutions, as well as individuals from the MIAA Partners in Prevention, a powerful collaborative of public and private prevention agencies initiatives. The Committee and the Collaborative provide extensive support, resources and expertise in the delivery of insight and programmatic initiatives leading to cultural competencies to the member-

ship. At the completion of the workshops, attendees created school action plans, “To Know is to Understand -- Plan For Action” focusing on workshop take-aways such as, “become aware of our own privileges and understand the many ‘-isms’ that exist,” “accept yourself before accepting others,” and “have the discussions that matter, even if they make you uncomfortable.” Rubin, MIAA stated, “The recent DEI Summit was an exemplary blueprint for what the Committee is trying to accomplish.” The Summit provided two keynote speakers, Muji Karim, a Paralympic Track and Field Athlete, and Briana Mastel, a member of Boston Pride of the National Women’s Hockey League. Mr. Karim’s message to “see the sil-

ver lining” when dealing with obstacles and Ms. Mastel’s encouragement to be a “strong link” and “to help others” are in alignment with the MIAA Wellness Pillar and inclusion message. In addition, Javier Cevallos, President of Framingham State University, and Yvonne Spicer, Mayor of Framingham, addressed the attendees with a warm welcome to the City of Framingham. Rubin stated, “The two keynote speakers and eight amazing presenters shared information, celebrated differences, and engaged attendees to think critically about the totality of Inclusion!” Summit attendees included Student Leaders, Group Leaders, Coaches, Teachers, Team Captains, Counselors and Administrators.

The week ahead

Boys Basketball		
Monday, Feb. 10		
Away	Central	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 12		
Home	Agawam	7 p.m.
Girls Basketball		
Friday, Feb. 7		
Away	Northampton	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11		
Home	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Indoor Track		
Friday, Feb. 7		
Away	PVIAC Meet	6 p.m.
Wrestling		
Saturday, Feb. 8		
Away	Haverill Dual Tourney	10 a.m.

Thunderbirds grab win on back of rookie goalie

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Ice-O-Topes (Thunderbirds) improved to 26-20-2-0 thanks to a 28-save shut-out performance from rookie goaltender Ryan Bednard in a 2-0 victory over the Hartford Wolf Pack (26-11-4-5) on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 on What If? Night at the MassMutual Center. It took the Ice-O-Topes less than four minutes to get the sellout crowd to its feet. After a man advantage resulted in no chances for Springfield, Jonathan Ang took matters into his own hands, receiving a stretch pass on the left wing from Matt Mangene. The second-year pro quickly slammed on the brakes, forcing a Hartford defender to stumble. With extra ice room available, Ang rushed the front of the net before punching a forehand shot through Wolf

Pack goalie Tom McCollum to open the scoring, 1-0, at 3:54. The Wolf Pack would fire 11 shots in response in the opening period, but rookie netminder Ryan Bednard was on his game early, stopping each of the shots that came his way in the first frame. McCollum stopped eight out of nine Springfield shots on net. The stalemate continued in the second, but not without a few chances for the Wolf Pack to tie it. Hartford could not take advantage on a second power play past the midpoint of the period, and moments later, after a broken stick slapper by Vincent LoVerde arrived on the doorstep, Matt Beleskey missed a seemingly open net with Bednard battling to get back in front of the shot. Wanting to add some insurance in the third, Dryden Hunt deflected a shot

over the shoulder of McCollum at the 4:00 mark of the final period to make it a 2-0 game. Mangene picked up his second assist of the night, as his shot got to the front of the net for Hunt’s backhand tip. From there, Bednard stole the show, including one phenomenal sliding save from post-to-post on Vinni Lettieri near the midpoint of the third. Springfield clamped down and ushered home their second shutout win of the season and the first in Bednard’s AHL career. The rookie goalie is now 3-0-0 with Springfield, having stopped 98 of 101 shots. The T-Birds embark on a five-game road trip, beginning with a Wednesday rematch in Hartford, the team’s third straight matchup against the Wolf Pack on the schedule.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete?

Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

Bay State Games begins partnership with Gentle Giant

WOBURN – Bay State Games and Gentle Giant Moving Company are excited to announce a partnership. Through this partnership, Gentle Giant will serve as the official moving and storage company of Bay State Games for the Summer Games. “The Bay State Games’ mission of promoting personal development, education, physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship directly aligns with Gentle Giant’s core focus of developing exemplary leaders and our history of employing high level athletes.

We’re very excited to be able to support the Bay State Games and connect with their network of athletes,” says Craig Averett, Gentle Giant Recruiting Manager and 1995 Bay State Games competitor. Of the budding relationship, Bay State Games Executive Director, Kevin Cummings says, “since 1982, Bay State Games has produced programs that develop students, athletes, and the future leaders of tomorrow. Gentle Giant shares many of these same values and we look forward

to our partnership which will focus on providing opportunities for student-athletes.” Gentle Giant has a 40-year history of hiring the best and brightest athletes at their offices across New England and in several other regional locations. If you are looking for a paid work out, a flexible schedule, and competitive benefits please visit www.gentlegiant.com/careers for more information or to fill out the preliminary application. For questions, email info@bay-stategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Holyoke Community College Cougars gain spot in regional playoffs

Holyoke Community College Mens basketball won their regional home game on Thursday night, defeating Mass Bay CC 72-67. The Cougars sunk a dozen three-pointers in the contest, propelling them to victory. Holyoke has won four of their past five regional matchups, shooting them up the New England regional standings. Michael Castillo (Northampton, MA / Northampton HS) once again spearheaded the offense, tallying a double-double, as he did during the Cougars’ last win. Castillo scored 18 points, including four three-pointers, and brought down ten rebounds.

Deven Rivera (Holyoke, MA / Holyoke HS) scored a season-high 14 points and dished out ten assists to earn his first double-double of the season. Rivera shot 4 for 5 from the free throw line and sank a pair of three-pointers. Jequan Rogers (Springfield, MA / Sabis HS) had 14 points and Ozzy Santos (Springfield, MA / Sabis HS) scored 12, including a trio of three-pointers. The Cougars have a 6-5 regional record and a 6-8 overall record. They currently hold onto a playoff spot in the middle of the pack in the New England standings.

KNIGHTS, from page 9

game winning streak, defeating Amherst, Pope Francis, and Northampton in consecutive games. The wins should give the Knights some confidence heading into the final two weeks of the season, as Holyoke will

see all three of those teams, along with Agawam High School, a team they have already defeated once this season. Holyoke High School officials are still re-evaluating their system for fan seating and security at home games. They have had extra security and police presence at recent games, and there have been no further incidents reported.

TOURNAMENTS, from page 9

three rounds with the semifinals and finals at neutral sites. While it is the impression of skeptics that Eastern Mass. would host most of the games, some projections of how seedings would take shape were tried with the most recent soccer tournaments. According to those projects, teams like Belchertown boys soccer, Ludlow boys soccer, and Minnechaug girls soccer, would all have very high seeds and host a number of games in the tournament. However, it is still unclear if Western Mass. would get an opportunity to host state semifinal and final games. Hosting

the state finals was attempted for basketball, and failed due to gate receipts. Some of the questions that are still lingering state wide are the increased travel costs for smaller schools. No matter what part of the state a school is in, with tighter school budgets, having to pay bus drivers to transport teams on two to four hour trips could be problematic for schools with smaller budgets and less flexibility on spending. It could lead to larger athletic user fees for student-athletes. The lingering effects could be seen as the years go on, but only time will tell if a statewide tournament has long-term negative effects on Western Massachusetts.



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Meeting in March on new highway exit numbers

SPRINGFIELD — State transportation officials have scheduled additional meetings about the planned switch to mileage-based exit numbers on major Massachusetts highways.

After a first round of sessions was held in December, there will be at least one additional Western Massachusetts date this spring. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will hold a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in Room 220 of City Hall, 36 Court St., Springfield. All are invited to learn more about the project and ask questions in person.

The conversion, planned to begin this summer, will affect most highways with exit numbers in Massachusetts, including Interstates 90 and 91.

For example, in Holyoke, the Lower Westfield Road interchange on I-91 will change to Exit 12 from old Exit 15; the Cherry Street (Route 202) interchange to Exit 14 from old Exit 16; and the three Easthampton Road (Route 141) ramps to Exit 15, southbound, and exits 15A and 15B, northbound, from old

exits 17, 17A and 17B.

On the Massachusetts Turnpike, rather than running from Exit 1 in West Stockbridge to Exit 26 at Logan Airport, mileage-based exit numbers will start at 3 and end at 137. The current Exit 4, in West Springfield, will become Exit 45.

A handful of short expressways with closely spaced exits, including Interstate 391 in Holyoke and Interstate 291 in Springfield, will not see their numbers change.

The switch will bring most highways in Massachusetts, one of the last states in the country to number its exits sequentially, into compliance with 2009 federal standards. The project is expected to cost \$2.8 million, statewide, of which 90 percent will be paid by a federal grant. MassDOT officials have said if the exit numbers are not changed by 2022, Massachusetts could have its federal highway aid withheld.

MassDOT also plans to schedule additional meetings this spring and summer. For more information about the project, visit www.NewMassExits.com.



The current Exit 16 on Interstate 91 in Holyoke will be renumbered as Exit 14 this year to match the nearest milepost, part of a statewide project affecting most expressways.
Photo by Michael Ballway

Scholarships given for cannabis class

The Cannabis Education Center, a collaboration between Holyoke Community College and the Cannabis Community Care & Research Network (C3RN), awarded scholarships to six students enrolled in its entry-level cannabis culinary assistant training program, which began Jan. 25.

These initial scholarships were provided by cannabis businesses Curaleaf, Good Chemistry, Mill Town Agriculture, and Cultivate and awarded to students who either live in the Holyoke area, are unemployed or underemployed, or were disproportionately impacted by drug enforcement laws before the legalization of marijuana in Massachusetts, among other criteria.

“The goal of the scholarship program is to provide high-quality cannabis training to those who might otherwise not have the financial opportunity,” said Marion McNabb, chief executive officer of C3RN and the 501c3 nonprofit that manages the scholarship program for the Cannabis Education Center. “The initial scholarships provided by leading local cannabis businesses demonstrate their commitment to furthering opportunities that advance social justice via education locally in Massachusetts and in Holyoke.”

The cannabis culinary assistant program started Jan. 25 at the HCC MGM

Culinary Arts Institute and runs for six Saturdays, through Feb. 29. Cannabis culinary assistants are responsible for preparing cannabis or cannabidiol-infused products using a variety of cooking, baking, and infusion techniques. Students are also learning about manufacturing operations and security, health, and safety policies and regulations. Course instructors and guest lecturers include representatives from C3RN, HCC, INSA, Cloud Creamery, Ardent, Willie’s Reserve, MCR Labs, and Bay Grown Farms.

Hemp products are being used in place of cannabis on the HCC campus. Students will follow up their classroom sessions with internships at cannabis businesses, including INSA in Easthampton and AmeriCann and BASK in Fairhaven, Mass., and additional internship partnerships will soon be announced.

The scholarships cover the full cost of the training program, including the internship, \$3,000.

“Curaleaf Massachusetts is proud to partner with C3RN and Holyoke Community College by sponsoring scholarships at the Cannabis Education Center,” said Patrik Jonsson, president of Curaleaf Massachusetts. “We greatly value the opportunity to provide support for individuals from areas of dispropor-

tionate impact, and we are looking forward to getting involved in the onsite occupational training aspect as well.”

Additional scholarships are envisioned for future cannabis training programs. The Cannabis Education Center will begin a program to train workers for jobs as patient advocates and budtenders March 2 at HCC’s Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

“We’re looking forward to offering these training programs to as many people as possible,” said HCC President Christina Royal. “Thanks to these scholarships, one more barrier to education and training is lessened for those with significant financial need.”

The Cannabis Education Center is based at HCC’s Kittredge Center.

“This is a landmark opportunity to provide education for incoming labor in this emerging market,” said Kate Phillips, director of education of C3RN and one of the culinary assistant program instructors. “With the cannabis industry being one of the fastest growing sectors, it is imperative that programs like the Cannabis Education Center provide quality education while establishing industry standards.”

For more information or to apply for a scholarship, visit cannabiseducationcenter.org and click on a program of interest.

Wistariahurst will host wine-tasting

I Love Wine! will return to Wistariahurst for a special Valentine’s Day wine tasting 6-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14.

Attendees will sample fine wines from around the world in the historic Skinner family mansion at 238 Cabot St., Holyoke. All will be provided a sampling menu to keep track of the vineyards and vintages, aromas and finishes of the wines they love. Wines will be provided by Liquors44. Light refreshments will be provided.

Tickets are limited and advance purchase is strongly encouraged. Tickets are available for \$30 at www.Wistariahurst.org.



Holyoke Community College offering children’s safety program

Holyoke Community College is running a two-day program next month designed to teach children how to protect themselves from violence and harm in their daily lives.

“RadKIDS” is for children 6 to 12 years old and will run over two consecutive Saturdays, Feb. 15 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at HCC’s Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation, on the main campus at 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke.

The sessions will be led by Kellie Cournoyer-Cronk and Maggie Brown, two area law enforcement veterans and trainers certified by the radKIDS

national nonprofit network.

According to its website, radKIDS is a “fun, activity-based program” whose curriculum includes home, school and vehicle safety; bullying prevention; abduction defense; and personal space and personal touch safety, with a goal of “replacing fear with knowledge, skills and power, by enhancing a child’s critical thinking abilities and physical resistance skills.”

The \$75 program fee includes snacks, water and a T-shirt.

To register, visit hcc.edu/bce and search for “radKIDS,” or call HCC Community Services at 413-552-2123.

Poetry Corner

The Gossiping Aspen

By Patricia Counter

Do these leaves make me look fat? Tell me the truth but be kind

Look at her, she thinks she’s so straight and slim, but she’s actually spindly, if it wasn’t for the bushes around her, she would fall over. She isn’t even decent firewood.

What about that oak with its branches sticking out everywhere and then there’s those nut things. I think they’re just attention getters especially when they fall on someones head.

Look at that maple over there in the corner just swaying away. Does she think this is some kind of dance contest? I will say her leaves are very pretty. I wonder who does them.

Then there’s that poor apple tree, everytime there is the slightest breeze he starts throwing his apples everywhere. Someone should tell him he’s not in the land of Oz.

That willow really needs to stop looking into peoples windows. She’s such a cry baby though that you hate to say anything

And you Dearie, you still look pretty good. A little rough around the trunk perhaps and maybe a little trim here and there would be nice. But now me.

Do you think these leaves make me look fat?

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ONGOING

WINTER MARKET from the Holyoke Farmers Market will be held every other Sunday on the first floor at the Holyoke Mall near Macy’s, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., through March 8. The next market date is Feb. 9. The market offers a variety of fruits, vegetables, dairy products and crafts from local farms and vendors. HIP and EBT are accepted.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, a 12-step, non-profit organization, meets Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 605 South St., Holyoke. Enter the door off the driveway. More info: 413-783-4198 or www.oawmass.org.

POKEMON FAN CLUB meets at the Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St., every Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Teen Room. The club plays Pokemon cards, games and Pokemon Go, as well as other card games like Yu-Gi-Oh and Magic: The Gathering; tournaments for prizes, trading, drawing Pokemon art, and snacks. More info and registration: 413-420-8101.

RSVP SEEKS VOLUNTEERS for nonprofit organizations in Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties. Adults 55 and older who want to share skills and experience in their spare time can contact RSVP for a great volunteer position, some travel and insurance benefits, and personal matching. Contact Patricia Sicard at psicard@hcg-ma.org or 413-387-4558, ext. 1.

Friday, Feb. 7

BOOK TRACES talk in the Williston Library’s Stimson Room at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, 3-4 p.m. All are invited to hear about “Hidden Histories of Reading and the Future of Library Collections” Kristin Jensen, who manages Book Traces from its base at the University of Virginia, will speak about “finding cool stuff in old books” at a time when American college libraries are turning towards mass digitization, shared print consortia, and efforts to downsize their print collections.

Saturday, Feb. 8

BURIAL GROUNDS OF HOLYOKE historical talk at the Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke, 11 a.m. Bob Comeau will look into the history of cemeteries in the city. Free.

CABIN FEVER fundraiser for the South Hadley Lions Club at The Wherehouse? banquet hall in Holyoke, 5:30-11 p.m. Tickets at \$25 per person with an evening of food and excitement including Italian-

The Pulse is a community calendar for Holyoke and neighboring communities. Free listings are available for non-commercial, non-political entertainment or educational events that are free to attend, or fundraisers that benefit a non-profit organization. Only events in Holyoke or one of its immediate bordering towns, or events that benefit an organization based in Holyoke, will be listed. Submitted items should be brief, with only time, date, location, activity explanation, and contact information, and may be edited for length and style. Items may be sent to thesun@turley.com, fax to 413-283-7107 or mail to The Holyoke Sun, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. The deadline for calendar listings is noon Monday for that Friday’s newspaper.

style buffet, 50-50 raffle, and performance from local musicians Midlife Crisis. Tickets: Chris, 413-658-8929, or Tina, 413-244-2063. Limited tickets may be available at the door.

Sunday, Feb. 9

VALENTINE’S CRAFTS at the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, 221 Appleton St., Holyoke, noon to 3:30 p.m. For each children’s ticket purchased, the rider will receive a free Valentine’s craft project.

Wednesday, Feb. 12

SPANISH GUITAR CONCERT at the Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke, 6:30 p.m. Eliezer Torres and Orlando Zayas will give a free musical performance of romantic Latin music.

Thursday, Feb. 13

CONCERT FOR PUERTO RICO at Gateway City Arts, 92 Race St., Holyoke, 7 p.m. Student musicians and poets from Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School will perform a benefit concert with all proceeds to earthquake relief in Puerto Rico. Admission is a suggested donation of \$15 per person.

Friday, Feb. 14

VALENTINE’S CELEBRATION at St. Anthony of Padua Parish Social Center, 56 St. Anthony St., Chicopee, 6 p.m. Four-course meal, wines from around the world, raffles and surprises. Tickets \$25 per couple; visit stanthonychicopee.com.

Saturday, Feb. 15

CHILI DINNER at the Our Lady of the Cross Parish Hall on Holy Cross Avenue, Holyoke, 5 p.m. Several varieties will be served, from mild to spicy. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. For tickets, call the parish office at 413-532-5661.

Friday, Feb. 21

BATTLE OF THE BARS at the Knights of Columbus, 250 Westfield Road, Holyoke, 6-9 p.m. Bartenders from local bars will compete to earn the most tips and drink sales. Proceeds benefit the St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke. Ben Lavelle will provide musical entertainment.

Saturday, Feb. 22

DOG SHOW in the Holyoke High School gymnasium, 300 Beech St., Holyoke, 1-3 p.m. Free to attend;

dogs may enter up to two categories of competition at \$5 per entry. Vendor fair includes pet products, raffles and more. Registration and more info: Parks and Recreation, 413-322-5620.

Sunday, Feb. 23

MARDI GRAS LUNCHEON hosted by the Saint Theresa’s HOST Team in the church hall at 9 E. Parkview Drive, South Hadley, noon to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12 each and seating is limited. Ample parking and handicapped accessible. More info: 413-532-228.

Saturday, Feb. 29

DREAMS AND DEFIANCE concert at Wistariahurst, 238 Cabot St., Holyoke, 7-9 p.m. Songwriters and musician-activist-educators Pamela Means and Diana Alvarez will perform. Tickets are \$15, available at Wistariahurst.org or at the door.

Saturday, March 7

POLAR PLUNGE at Hampton Ponds State Park, 1048 North Road, Westfield, noon. Participants are asked to raise at least \$100, with all proceeds to benefit Special Olympics. More info: specialolympicsma.donordrive.com/event/westfieldplunge.

BIG BROADCAST in the Chapin Auditorium at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, 2-7:30 p.m. This is the 15th annual performance of the Jazz Ensembles at Mount Holyoke. Snow date is March 8. General admission tickets are \$25 for premium front and center seating, \$20 for regular seating, \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door for seniors, and \$10 for students. For online tickets, visit www.fineartscenter.com.

HOLYOKE ST. PATRICK’S PARADE TARTAN PARTY at the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, 221 Appleton St., Holyoke, 2:30-5 p.m. Children will enjoy unlimited rides on the merry-go-round, face painting, snacks, crafts and a digital photo booth. Adults can purchase beer or wine and shop for Holyoke parade tartan merchandise. Admission is \$5 per person, or \$10 for a family.

Friday, March 13

MARSHAL MANIA CONCERT at the Wherehouse?, 109 Lyman St., Holyoke, 8 p.m. (doors open 6:30). The Sighs will headline this fundraiser for the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade, with Holyoke’s own Ed Jackowski as the opening act. Tickets are \$20 per person at JeffWalsh127@gmail.com or 413-530-3944, or marshalmania2020.brownpapertickets.com.

► Holyoke Arrests

The Holyoke Police Department recorded the following arrests from Jan. 27 to Feb. 2. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Monday, Jan. 27

A 16-year-old was arrested at 5:26 a.m. on West Street on two warrants, and also charged with receiving a stolen motor vehicle, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, carrying a dangerous weapon and possession of a class B drug.

Angel L. Gonzalez, 32, of 6 Worcester Place, Apt. 3L, Holyoke, was arrested at 5:11 p.m. at the Holyoke Mall on a warrant, and also charged with shoplifting, assault, and resisting arrest.

Josue Roman, 41, of 82 Pearl St., Springfield, was arrested at 5:12 p.m. at the police station on two warrants.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Anthony Lopez-Eaton, 25, of 40 Paul Revere Drive, Feeding Hills, was arrested at 10:17 a.m. on Court Plaza on two warrants.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Thomas Delphia, 32, homeless, was arrested at 4:18 p.m. on Essex Street on a warrant, and also charged with possession of a class A drug, possession

of a class B drug, and trespassing.

Francisco E. Bermudez, 30, of 50 West St., Apt. 4L, Holyoke, was arrested at 5:10 p.m. on Appleton Street on a warrant.

Samoeuth Som, 36, of 99 Southpoint Drive, Apt. H, Amherst, was arrested at 10:07 p.m. on Elm Street and charged with receiving a stolen motor vehicle.

Thursday, Jan. 30

Luz Naida Nazario, 44, of 76 Maple St., Apt. 906, Holyoke, was arrested at 6:33 p.m. on Franklin Street on a warrant.

Maynor Santizo-Lopez, 33, of 46 Ringgold St., Springfield, was arrested at 10:33 p.m. on Maple Street and charged with driving without a license and a vehicle equipment violation.

Friday, Jan. 31

Freddie L. Tosado Jr., 31, of 5 Adams St., Holyoke, was arrested at 4:26 p.m. on Adams Street on a warrant, and also charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and assault and battery on a police officer.

Francisco Ortiz, 37, homeless, was arrested at 11:23 p.m. on Elm Street and charged with trespassing.

Saturday, Feb. 1

A 15-year-old was arrested at 1:40 a.m. on Cabot

Street and charged with driving without a license.

Ramon DeJesus, 33, of 51 View St., 3rd Floor, Holyoke, was arrested at 2:17 p.m. on View Street on a warrant.

Gregory Stober, 37, of 10 Klondike Ave., Westfield, was arrested at 4:40 p.m. on Pine Street and charged with driving with a suspended license and driving with no inspection sticker.

Tatyana Contreras-Lara, 24, of 37 Clinton Ave., Apt. 3L, Holyoke, was arrested at 7:03 p.m. on Clinton Avenue on a warrant.

Ricardo Velazquez, 34, of 82 Malden St., Apt. 1R, Springfield, was arrested at 7:27 p.m. on Clemente Street on a warrant, and also charged with larceny under \$1,200.

Sunday, Feb. 2

Jose L. Cosme Jr., 30, of 131 Clemente St., Apt. 1L, Holyoke, was arrested at 4:47 a.m. on Maple Street on two warrants, and also charged with driving without a license and driving with no inspection sticker.

Jose M. Hernandez, 54, of 67 St. James Ave., Holyoke, was arrested at 7:10 a.m. on Walnut Street and charged with possession of a class A drug and driving with a suspended license.

Alexis Matos, 32, of 150 Crescent Drive, Chicopee, was arrested at 3:22 p.m. on Northampton Street on a warrant, and also charged with shoplifting.

superintendent with “full managerial and operational control.” The current receiver, Stephen Zrike, has announced he will step down from that role at the end of June.

At the Feb. 3 forum participants split into two groups to share their opinions. Sell asked them not to debate among themselves, but to record every individual’s suggestions.

One suggestion that came up repeatedly was that the new receiver be willing to build on the progress already made in the past five years, rather than coming in with all-new ideas and starting from square one.

“We don’t want to be set back,” said School Committee member Rosalee Tensley Williams.

Among the dozens of other skills and attributes that forum participants wanted to see in their next receiver were, in no particular order:

- Empathy, enthusiasm, approachability, open-mindedness, compassion
- Preference for a bilingual candidate
- Knowledge and understanding of Holyoke

- Ability to understand the “customer’s” point of view; not a top-down administrator
 - Experience with social-emotional learning and behavioral health
 - Focus on root problems, not symptoms
 - Understanding that different students learn differently
 - Commitment to end receivership and return to local control as soon as possible
 - Classroom teaching experience
 - Must love children and be comfortable around children
 - Trust building principals and enforce accountability without micro-managing
 - Preference for a resident of Western Massachusetts
 - Someone from outside Holyoke, independent of local political influence
 - Ability to articulate success; also, ability to listen to the community and the diplomatic skills to build community support
 - Proponent of social justice and equity; responsiveness to Holyoke’s cultural diversity
 - Demonstrated success as a receiver at previous assignments
- City Councilor Terence Murphy

also suggested that the new receiver commit to staying for the entire remaining length of the receivership, so that Holyoke is not forced to undergo another transition while under state control. The city’s current turnaround plan expires in 2021, but the end of receivership is tied to meeting educational and financial standards.

Some attendees of the Feb. 3 forum criticized DESE for holding only two public forums in the city, and for not involving local voices in later stages of the selection process.

“The reason we’re only having two [forums], in a two-week period, is that DESE wants to have this information as soon as possible,” said Sell.

School Committee member Mildred Lefebvre, however, said there are other ways to incorporate Holyoke voices in the search. She suggested that a Holyoke School Committee member should be part of the panel that interviews prospective candidates. Even if the final decision rests solely with the state education commissioner, she said, at least there would be someone from Holyoke asking questions to the candidates while the commissioner is listening.

Deb Lantaigne, who hosted Monday’s forum, is a member of the

commissioner’s staff and said she will convey these concerns to him. She also said there will be other forums and conversations involving specific groups within the schools, such as faculty and student groups.

At the very least, she said, the issues raised during local forums and in the online survey will be consulted by Great Schools and state officials as they craft their interview questions.

“Ultimately, the decision is the commissioner’s,” she said.

According to the job posting, the state is looking for an experienced superintendent, principal, head of school or director of an educational nonprofit with at least a master’s degree and a Massachusetts superintendent or assistant superintendent license, with Spanish language skills strongly preferred. The salary range is listed at \$185,000 to \$220,000 per year.

The state describes the Holyoke receiver position as “a unique opportunity for a courageous, committed individual.” Under the terms of state control over the Holyoke School Department, the receiver has all the powers of both a superintendent and a School Committee, and reports directly to the state education commissioner.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD19D1619DR
Harrison Corales vs.
Josefina Brea
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION
AND MAILING**

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

Harrison Corales

**310 Central Street
Springfield, MA 01105**

your answer, if any, on or before **04/22/2020**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 22, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

2/07/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P0202EA
Estate of:
Louis M. Gageant
Date of Death:
November 16, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons inter-

ested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

Amy K. Harper of Holyoke, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Amy K. Harper of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal

Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

2/07/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0149EA
Estate of:
Roland Raymond Monast
Date of Death: 07/19/1985
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Gerard A Monast** of Ballston Spa NY requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Gerard A Monast**

of Ballston Spa NY be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/24/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative

appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 30, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

2/07/2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Swinging Bridges Auction Company, Lic #2755 will hold a Public Auction on **February 22, 2020 at 9 a.m.** Unclaimed items to be sold at **Pawn Depot Inc., 448 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA 01040.**

20% buyers fee, 6.25% MA sales tax.

2/07, 2/14/2020

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC NOTICES

All public notices to be published in the Holyoke Sun should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Jamie Joslyn processes all public notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie directly at 413-283-8393.

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Please check the accuracy of your public notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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The Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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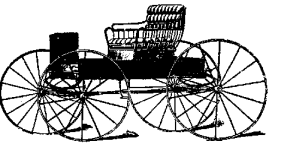
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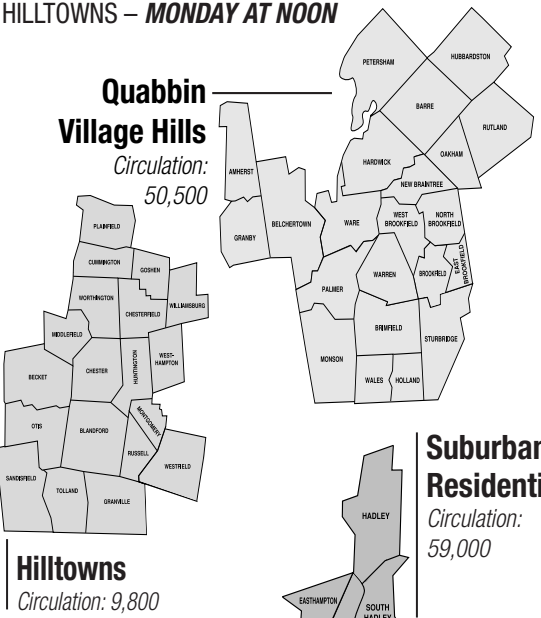
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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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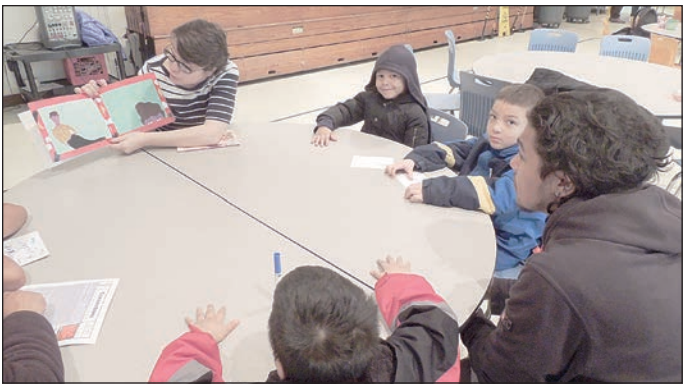
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Second grade teacher Molly Cooksy reads to a table of kids and their parents during the Family Literacy event at Lawrence School on Wednesday.



Tameiko Hines, left, talks about the current book with Darcelle Clark at the Lawrence School Literacy Night held Feb. 5. *Photos by Peter Spotts*



Sarah Clark, right, watches her daughter Ashleigh Windoloski answer a question about the book.



English language learner teacher Laura Battles and Laniyah Hines look at a book.



Boxes of free books were available for kids to choose books to take home.



Dustin Sibley is all smiles when it comes to reading a good book.



Kanila Rodriguez enjoys her hot chocolate while listening to a book.

BOOKS, from page 1

Rivera said. “They’re asking questions and getting their family [involved].” Following the conclusion of the event, the kids got to pick out books from boxes packed to the brim to take home. The school has dozens and dozens of extra books waiting for a new home and the literacy event was the perfect chance to get them into the hands of eager young readers. “I’m really excited. They’re all loving it. Their faces, you can tell they’re having fun,” said first grade teacher Sue Leary. “[The books] are sitting around when they could be in kids’ hands. We said the extra books we’ll give to the kids so they can have a library in their own house.”

First grader Sophia Guzman said she loves reading with her big sister at home and enjoyed the chance to read with her out loud in the groups at the school. “My favorite was the ‘School Stinks’ [book],” Guzman said. “I liked when the boy was on the monkey bars then he said ‘I love first grade.’ Then the girl said she wants to punch him.” Leary worked with fellow teachers Amy Drohan and Julia Campbell to organize the event. They were joined by Korri Flynn, Laura Battles, Molly Cooksy and Haley McCormick to read to the kids. Leary said every couple months the school tries to hold some form of education event where parents can come in and have fun with their kids. She said the current plan for the next family event is a math games night.

“[The books] are sitting around when they could be in kids’ hands. We said the extra books we’ll give to the kids so they can have a library in their own house.”

Sue Leary

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